

Message Text

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SUBJ: LABOR STAG ROBERT PARRISH VISIT TO SEOUL

SEPTEMBER 23-26

REF: STATE 143313; SEOUL 4863

1. ROBERT PARRISH, VICE PRESIDENT INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF RAILWAY AND AIRLINE CLERKS, ACCOMPANIED BY MRS. PARRISH ARRIVED SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 AT 13:45 IN SEOUL WITH LEADERS OF KOREAN RAILWAY WORKERS AND AAFLI REPRESENTATIVES AWAITING THEM AT THE AIRPORT.

2. FOLLOWING HOTEL ARRANGEMENTS AND SIGHTSEEING TOUR MR. PARRISH WAS BRIEFED BY LABOR ATTACHE, AAFLI REPRESENTATIVES, AND GENERAL SECRETARY OF RAILWAY WORKERS ON KOREAN TRADE UNION SITUATION AND KOREAN RAILWAY SYSTEM.

3. MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 PARRISH MET WITH RAILWAY WORKERS' PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE BOARD; SUBSEQUENTLY MADE COURTESY CALL ON FKTU LEADERS WHO HOSPTED LUNCH. IN THE AFTERNOON THE VISITOR WAS SHOWN SEOUL STATION AND INTRODUCED TO RAILWAY ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS. IN THE EVENING RAILWAY WORKERS GAVE VISITOR A KEISANG PARTY.

4. TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 PARRISH ACCOMPANIED BY LABOR ATTACHE TOURED AROUND MOONSAN, NEAR DMZ AND HAD LUNCH

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AT AMERICAN QUAIL FARM. IN AFTERNOON HE MET AGAIN WITH

AAFLI AND VARIOUS LABOR LEADERS. IN THE EVENING LABOR ATTACHE HOSTED DINNER INCLUDING LEADERS OF RAILWAY WORKERS AND KAL AIRLINE WORKERS, AS WELL AS AAFLI REPRESENTATIVES.

5. WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26: MR. AND MRS PARRISH MET AMBASSADOR, REVIEWED TRIP WITH LABOR ATTACHE, AND DEPARTED FOR TOKYO AT 13:00.

6. COMMENT: BOB PARRISH WHO HAD BEEN KOREAN WAR VETERAN AND HAD PARTICIPATED IN INCHON LANDING MADE GOOD IMPRESSION, SAID THE RIGHT THINGS, EFFECTIVELY REPRESENTED AND EXPLAINED AMERICAN LABOR TO KOREANS, AND WAS WELL RECEIVED. THE KOREAN RAILWAY WORKERS ARE ESPECIALLY ANXIOUS TO ESTABLISH CLOSER COMMUNICATIONS WITH THEIR AMERICAN COUNTERPARTS THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT WORKERS' UNION (ITT). THE RAILWAY CLERKS AND ITF ARE PLANNING A JOINTSEMINAR FOR RAILWAY WORKERS IN KOREA AT THE END OF OCTOBER.
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